

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. In light of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,341,068) (hereinafter 'Bradley') in view of Liong et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,151,649) (hereinafter 'Liong'). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner acknowledges that Bradley does not disclose "a period when said front card is disconnected from said CPCI system said transition card provides a termination at said second end of said SCSI bus" as recited in Applicant's claim 1. However, the Examiner asserts that Liong discloses, at col. 4, lines 52-62, a switch automatically providing termination when a SCSI card at end is disconnected. The Examiner further asserts "it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Liong in the system of Bradley to provide a period when said front card is disconnected from said CPCI system said transition card provides a termination at said second end of said SCSI bus since this would allow devices in a SCSI chain to be disconnected without turning power off to the rest of the system." (See Liong col. 3, lines 20-27)

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Liong and his assertion regarding obviousness. Specifically, Liong teaches at col.4, lines 52-62

"In operation, the inventive terminal switch unit (TSU) 340, 342 automatically detects the FRU supplied term power (voltage) dropping below 3.55-3.6 volt range at a FRU node 104, 106 and isolates that node from the rest of the clustering system 301. At the same time that terminator switch 340, 342 detects the drop in power (voltage) at the node, the terminator switch replaces (within about 5 nanoseconds) the termination needed by the SCSI bus on the node side of the TSU, which termination had up to that instant been provided by SCSI terminator 120, 122 within the removed or failed node."

From the foregoing it appears that Liong provides an automatic termination switch device which is separate from (i.e., external to) any SCSI device in a SCSI-based system. Applicant submits that this is not the same as providing termination capability within the transition card of a CPCI system.

Bradley recognizes the need for termination of SCSI devices in the context of a CPCI-based system by disclosing a termination device that is external to the transition card. (See Bradley FIG. 1, 103) However, Bradley does not suggest that there is either a problem with the use of external termination device 103 or that there may be a better way of terminating a SCSI bus when used in the CPCI system.

It appears that the Examiner is suggesting that one skilled in the art would be motivated to remove the external termination device 103 of Bradley and replace it with an external termination device of Liong, to arrive at the Applicant's claimed invention. Applicant submits that in doing so one would not arrive at the Applicant's claimed invention.

In addition, since Liong solves the termination problem for removing a SCSI device in the context of a SCSI-based system using another external device, Applicant can find motivation, either explicit or implicit, in either reference, to combine the two references as the Examiner has suggested.

Furthermore, the above notwithstanding, according to MPEP §2143.01, "The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990)..." The Applicant cannot find any such suggestion or motivation.

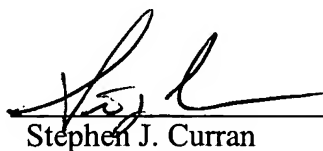
Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-24 patentably distinguish over Bradley in view of Liong for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/6000-07000/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen J. Curran

Reg. No. 50,664

AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800

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